

ficance. Since a detailed description of this species is not available in the literature, it is provided in the present report.

Pteris dactylina Hook. sp. Fil. 2; 160. f. 13A. 1858; Bedd. Ferns Brit. India 23. f. 23. 1866; Handb. Ferns Brit. India 107. fig. 56. 1883.

Terrestrial small herbs; rhizome short, erect or obliquely ascending, scaly at growing tips; stipes variable, 5-25 cm long, stramineous, glabrous; lamina digitate with 3-7 pinnae; pin-

nae 5-15 cm long, linear, margin sharply serrate towards the sterile apex; veins simple or forked; indusium broad, subintramarginal, membranaceous; sori submarginal, linear; spores brown with light brown perispore.

Specimens examined: Kerala, Palghat District, Panthanthode to Silent Valley Dam site, 900 m, N. C. Nair 56637, Acc. No. 103435, 7-4-1978 (MH); Eastern India, Assam, Local Hill, Cherapunji, \pm 1200 m, *Gustavmann* 65, Acc. No. 87906, Sept. 1889 (MH).

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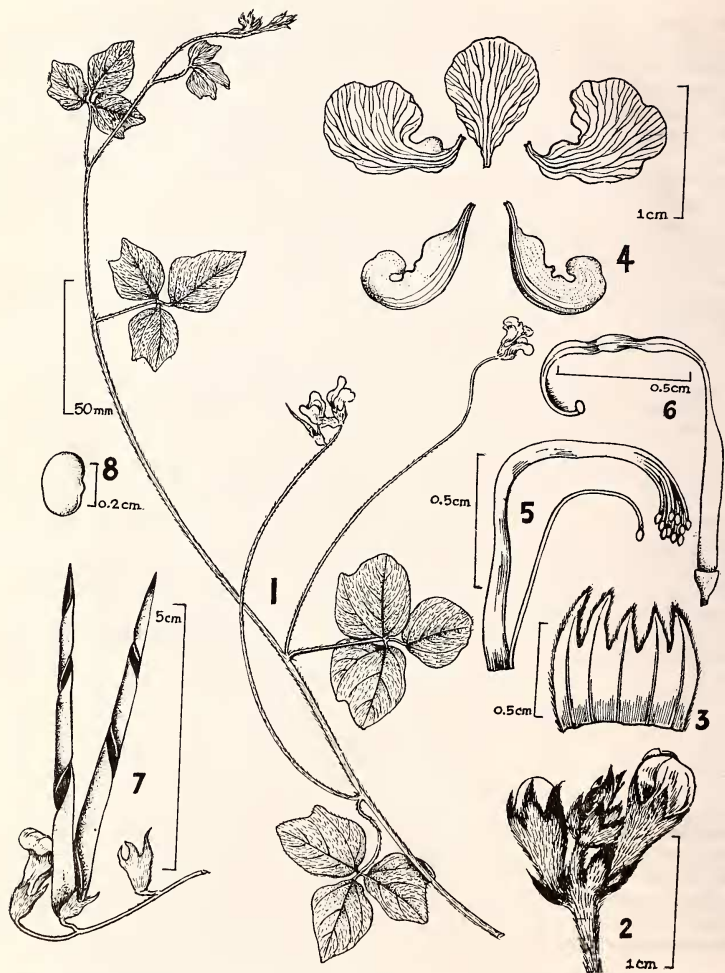
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28. THE GENUS *MACROPTILIUM* (BENTH.) URB.—A NEW RECORD FOR INDIA

(With eight text-figures)

Macroptilium atropurpureum (DC.) Urb. Symb. Antill 9: 452. 1928. Verdc. in Kew Bull. 24: 517, 1970 (in foot notes). *Phaseolus atropurpureus* DC. Prodr. 2: 395, 1825. Slender creeping herbs; stem terete, obscurely striate, grey tomentose. Leaves alternate,

trifoliolate; petioles 1-5.2 cm long, tomentose; stipules 2-5 mm long, reflexed, narrowly deltoid, acute, tomentose, more so without. Leaflets ovate, terminal ones sometimes rhomboidal, 1.3-3.5 \times 0.7-2.9 cm, lateral leaflets as long as terminal ones and broader, acute, apiculate,



Figs. 1-8. *Macropetelum atropurpureum* (DC.) Urb.: 1. Part of plant. 2. Young inflorescence. 3. Calyx split open. 4. Corolla parts. 5. Androecium. 6. Gynoecium. 7. Pods (dehiscent). 8. Seed.

obscurely lobed, round or truncate at base, nerves prominent beneath, grey tomentose above and more so beneath; petiolules 2-5 mm long, tomentose; stipels minute, subulate, tomentose. Flowers in axillary racemes; peduncles 10.5-20.5 cm long, tomentose; bracts and bracteoles minute, tomentose, caducous, Calyx green tomentose, tube nearly as long as lobes; upper 3 lobes shorter than lower 2, narrowly deltoid, acuminate. Corolla purple, upto 1.5 cm long; wing petals deeply coloured, longer than vexillum and keel; vexillum reflexed, keel incurved. Stamens 9+1, vexillary stamen free; style incurved at right angle, bearded on the adaxial side below the capitate stigma. Fruits nearly terete, beaked, upto 7 cm long, grey tomentose, valves twisting after dehiscence. Seeds dark brown, upto 3 mm long, more than 1 mm broad.

This is a tropical American species now widely cultivated in parts of Africa (Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, South Africa and Zimbabwe); New South Wales and Queensland in Australia and Hong Kong in Asia. It was found growing

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in the fodder grass plot of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and probably came as an impurity with some other seeds. An allied species, *M. bracteatum* (Nees & Mart.) Verdc. is also found near Waltair in Andhra Pradesh. (Information kindly furnished by Dr. G. Panigrahi from Kew Herbarium.)

The typical characters of the genus *Macropitilium* (Benth.) Urb. are squarish hooked style; wings rounded and longer than vexillum and keel; stipules not produced below the base.

Specimens examined: Farm of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, 487 m, 20-8-1974, *Marudan* 39285, in flowers and fruits.

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29. ADDITIONS TO THE FLORA OF RAJASTHAN

During the course of identification of plants collected from Bhilwara and Jodhpur districts of Rajasthan, I came across the following species which were not recorded earlier from Rajasthan. All the specimens cited in the paper are deposited in the herbarium of Arid Zone Circle, Botanical Survey of India, Jodhpur (BSJO).

Alysicarpus heterophyllus (Baker) Jafri & Ali,

in *Biologia* 12: 33. 1966; Ali, in *Fl. W. Pak.* 100. 343. 1977; *A. vaginalis* var. *heterophyllus* Baker, in Hook. f., *Fl. Br. Ind.* 2: 158. 1879.

An erect or diffuse annual herb upto 45 cm, in moist sandy soil amidst grasses. Stem slightly angular, puberulous. Leaves stipulate, 1-3, foliolate intermixed. Leaflets 0.5-4.5 × 0.2-1 cm, lanceolate, oblong-lanceolate, acute. Flowers